

A FEW OF THE THOUGHTS BROUGHT OUT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEFORE THE ADULT DEPARTMENT OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COLUMBIA, S. C. OCTOBER 19, 1947

1. The greatest menace in the United States is lawlessness.
2. The basic cause of the decline of civilization in the past has been the debauchery of law and order.
3. There has always existed warfare between crime on one side, and law and order on the other. Good on one side and evil on the other. Inefficiency, corruption and forces of the underworld on one side, and the forces of decency, truth, and honesty on the other.
4. The three-time proven deterrents of crime - sure detection, swift apprehension and certain punishment - have failed to solve this baffling problem.
5. For several years there has been a definite increase in crime among young people: 21% of the crimes committed are by persons under 21 years old; 17 and 18 year old girls commit more crimes than any other age group of the sexes mentioned. 70% of all adult criminals were once juvenile offenders.
6. During the war years among girls under 18 years of age prostitution increased 375%. Disorderly conduct 357%. Drunkedness and driving while intoxicated 174%.
7. The key to the crime problem is not punishment but prevention.
8. The best way to prevent crime is (a) proper training and environment of young people in the home, (b) the church, (c) the school, and (d) the community.
9. All so-called juvenile crime is a result of a deficiency on the part of one of the four mentioned above. Adults are always delinquent before children. Parents should give more time to their children.
10. Heredity provides the drive in a person - the brain possibly the initiative, and certain other qualities, but environment sets the pattern.

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